

Music To My Ears

Mark Fitzgearld 2012
Public Domain

Intro

Inventions like radio and tape recorders have changed over the years and I'll be taking a look at them. It's a lot like my writing. I enjoy writing but I haven't written anything in a while. I spent some time daydreaming of the way things used to be. If I could only put down the things I am thinking. Technology has sure made life different. Now and then I would hear somebody ask what we did before cellphones. The answer was a piece of string and two tin cans.

I was able to find out a lot of things on Youtube about inventions and things. I was able to find music from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. I also found some old time radio shows like the Lone Ranger and Jack Benny. It was a good way to spend my free time and it feels like I have a lot of free time.

The way I write has changed over the years too. I used to have a pad and pencil I would jot down poems and little stories. My first typewriter was given to me by my grandmother. It was a Royal Standard typewriter. I wrote a little story about radio stations that didn't take requests because they were automated. The story was printed in my Jr high school news paper. When I got older, I got an electric word processor. I wrote my first novel. It was called "The Dead Man". The story was about a man with a curse that came back from afterlife to break his curse. That was before public domain was so easy to find and upload to. I lost my novel in one of my many moves. Since then, I wrote several novels but only got one in print due to the cost of having to pay print on demand to print the, I even used a pen name that was easy to spell. "Kiss My Fate" by Marc Stone. It was too expensive to print them so I just type a bit and upload to Public Domain Archives.

Speaking of Public Domain Archives, I wrote songs and recorded them and I realized I would never do anything with my music so I made them into mp3 and uploaded them too. I remember my first cassette recorder. I taped myself playing Silent Night and I gave the tape to my mother.

Anyhow, back to the topic. Inventions like radio and tape recorders have changed over the years and I'll be taking a look at them.

The first recording ever

The first sound ever recorded, by Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville, in 1860, before Edison's wax cylinder experiments. Ironically, the "phonograph" was designed only to record sounds, not to play them back.

I looked it up on Youtube and I got to listen to it. It sounded like moaning but I could tell it was a voice. We sure have come a long way. We now have a way to play them.

I have always been into recording. I think it is interesting to see how it began. We sure have come a long way

Google Radio Inventions

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invention_of_radio

Marconi was awarded a patent for radio with [British patent No. 12,039, Improvements in Transmitting Electrical Impulses and Signals and in Apparatus There-for](#). The complete specification was filed March 2, 1897. This was Marconi's initial patent for the radio, though it used various earlier techniques of various other experimenters (primarily Tesla) and resembled the instrument demonstrated by others (including Popov). During this time spark-gap wireless telegraphy was widely researched. In July, 1896, Marconi got his invention and new method of telegraphy to the attention of Preece, then engineer-in-chief to the [British Government Telegraph Service](#), who had for the previous twelve years interested himself in the development of wireless telegraphy by the inductive-conductive method. On June 4, 1897, he delivered "Signalling through Space without Wires".[\[186\]](#)[\[187\]](#) Preece devoted considerable time to exhibiting and explaining the Marconi apparatus at the [Royal Institution](#) in London, stating that Marconi invented a new relay which had high sensitiveness and delicacy.[\[188\]](#)

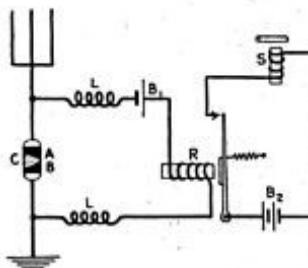
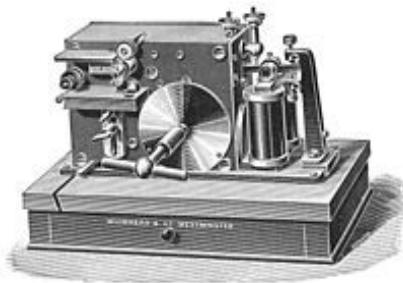


Fig. 101. Marconi 1896 Receiver.



Marconi plain aerial, 1896 receiver[\[189\]](#)



Muirhead Morse inker[\[190\]](#)

In 1896, Bose went to London on a lecture tour and met Marconi, who was conducting wireless experiments for the British post office. The [Marconi Company Ltd.](#) was founded by Marconi in 1897, known as the [Wireless Telegraph Trading Signal Company](#). Also in 1897, Marconi established the radio station at [Nitton, Isle of Wight](#), England. Marconi's wireless telegraphy was inspected by the Post Office Telegraph authorities; they made a series of experiments with Marconi's system of telegraphy without connecting wires, in the [Bristol Channel](#). The October wireless signals of 1897 were sent from [Salisbury Plain to Bath](#), a distance of 34 miles (55 km).[\[191\]](#) Marconi's reputation is largely based on the making of [his law](#) (1897), and other accomplishments in radio communications and commercializing a practical system.

Other experimental stations were established at [Lavernock Point](#), near [Penarth](#); on the [Flat Holmes](#), an island in mid-channel, and at [Brean Down](#), a promontory on the Somerset side. Signals were obtained between the first and last-named points, a distance of, approximately, 8 miles (13 km). The receiving instrument used was a [Morse inkwriter](#)[\[192\]](#) of the Post Office pattern.[\[193\]](#)[\[194\]](#) In 1898, Marconi opened a radio factory in Hall Street, [Chelmsford, England](#), employing around 50 people. In 1899, Marconi announced his invention of the "iron-mercury-iron coherer with telephone detector" in a paper presented at Royal Society, London.

Learning Trombone

When the chance to learn a music instrument came, my brother had a trombone that our grandmother gave him. He never did anything with it so I picked it up and joined band at school. We practiced all year and played a concert once a year.

Several years of playing at school and getting ready for the concert, I enjoyed the music. My parents would come to hear me play. I would look forward to band class and I would hear the band play.

Then there was marching band. We got uniforms and learned to play and march at the same time. We would go to football games and put on a show during half time. Also, there were parades. I think it's funny that I never really got to see the shows, I was always in them. Isn't that ironic.

How An Ear Works

The ear is connected to the canal. The canal is connected to the drum. The drum is connected to the hammer. The hammer is connected to the anvil. The anvil is connected to the stirrup. The stirrup is connected to the cochlea. The cochlea is connected to the brain.

Vibration speed gives sound pitches high or low. We call that frequency. Decibels are how we measure loudness.

For years they used static electricity to make vibration and they used static electricity to record. Static electricity came after the invention of the phonograph. The phonograph had a record with grooves in it. A needle would sit in the groove and play the vibrations in a bell. Later came electric record players. Bells were replaced with mic for recording and speakers to hear it. The tone arm of the record player made static waves that could be amplified with electronics.

My Grandmother's Stereo

It sat on the floor up against the wall. The stereo was three feet tall and was made of wood. It had a lid that popped up when I pushed down on it. Inside was a turntable and an AM FM radio. There was a place to put records.

My father had some records. He had Simon and Garfunkel and The Jimmy Hendrix Experience. I would play the records and learn the songs.

One day, my father came home from his job at the cable company and he tuned in the Showtime channel on the TV. Then he tuned in the sound for it on the radio in stereo.

Years later, when I moved out, my parents gave me the stereo. The radio didn't work and music wasn't available on records anymore.

Reel To Reel

My father had a reel to reel tape recorder. The reels were twelve inches big and he had some music. I would put on the reel and thread the tape through the heads and I would listen to the music on his headphones.

He had the Beatles and I could hear it in stereo. Paul would sing in one ear and John would sing in the other ear. He also had tapes of Peter, Paul, and Mary, and some music he recorded when he played guitar.

The heads would make static waves that were recorded by magnetic heads. When the music sounded funny or static, the heads needed to be demagnetized. Also, you needed to keep the tape away from speakers or anything that had magnets in them or you could erase the tapes. Speakers have magnets on a membrane and vibrate to the music. The static would shake the magnets on the paper membranes. This was music to my ears.

My First Recorder

My parents got me a small reel to reel recorder. The reels were six inches and it was battery operated. It had a mic and I would record myself reading comic books. I only had one reel of tape so I would record over it.

The Monkeys were on TV and I would sit with my recorder and wait for them to sing then record them. This was my first recorder. I had several songs on the tape.

I would play the tape a lot and I learned to sing the songs. Soon the batteries would die and that would be the end of my first recorder.

My First Radio

I got a radio. It only had one speaker. It came with one earphone and I would listen to the radio before bed.

The DJ would play music like the theme from the Muppet Movie, Rainbow Connection, or songs like Ride Like The Wind by Christopher Cross. I was hooked on radio.

I would call the local DJ and try to get her to play The Pina Colada Song by Rupert Holmes but she told me they didn't really take requests now that the system was prerecorded. I wrote a paper on how the DJ didn't take requests any more and it was published in the school news paper.

45 RPM Records

I was given a record player. There were a lot of songs that I liked on the radio so I saved my money and got the 45s. I got Funky Town, Ride Like the Wind, and Another One Bites the dust. It was music to my ears. My grand mother gave me her Mule Train 45. Clip-pity clopping through the wind and rain.

Another thing I found was a comic book with a 45. You could read along to the 45. The one I had was Captain America and The Falcon. The super heroes came to life like a cartoon.

I would play the records and sing along with them. It was good to grow up when music was so easy to buy. Now days I visualize a time where people that wanted music would need to go to a Mozart concert.

Telephone

We had phones when I was growing up. There were phone lines in every home and pay phones on many street corners. Most every restaurant and supermarket had pay phones. They had rotary dials and you put your finger in the hole in the dial and you slid the rotary around. It would send little pulses to the phone and you could hear the clicking in the phone receiver.

You could dial 0 and there would be an operator. The operator could connect you to police or fire department. You could also dial time and temperature. Many times, if it was slow, the operator might have time to chat with you if you were lonely. I used to call radio stations and talk to the DJ when I was feeling lonely.

Then they came up with touch tone phones. It was after this that I went into truck driving and I stopped to call home. I used a prepaid rechargeable phone card. I would put money on the card with my visa or debit card. Back to touch tone phones. I had one but the tone maker went out so I would tap on the hand set as many times as I needed to make the sound of dialing pulses. Then came car phones. Soon came cellphones and some looked like communicators from the Star Trek TV show. Now we all have smart phones.

8 Track

My brother had an 8 track player. It only had one speaker and it played cartridges. He had Eagles and Earth Wind and Fire. I got some Abba.

One day, I saw my brother was sifting through a large bundle of tape. Something went wrong with a tape so he took it apart to re spool it. It took him hours I did learn how they worked. The cartridges held the tape and the tape was wound around a spool. There was a small metal piece that would come around and tell the tape when to shift tracks. The tapes were magnetic.

Years later, my parents would get an Oldsmobile car and it had an 8 track player in it. My brother already had the music laying around. He even had some christian 8 tracks.

Cassette

Then came cassette tapes. My first cassette player only had one speaker. I learned to play guitar and I recorded myself playing Silent Night. I gave the tape to my mother. Years went by and they quit making 8 tracks. This might have something to do with cassettes auto reverse. Now we didn't have to turn cassettes over to hear the other side.

My father knew a guy that had a recording studio. I wrote some songs and went to record them on his 4 track real to real. Then he put them on cassette for me.

Record players started coming with AM FM and cassette. I could record records and put them on cassette. I could also record music off the radio. Soon I would get a cassette player with two speakers. Boom boxes became popular and you could carry your music with you. They also made them smaller and Sony came out with Walkman. I had a small cassette player so I could listen to my music.

My First Computer

My first computer was from Radio Shack. It was a TRS80 Color computer with a Cassette drive. It came with books and I did the projects in the book in Basic programming language. I would save the programs to the cassette. I even recorded some music to the cassette that would play while you were playing the game. The cassette plugged into the computer and there was a cord from the computer that would turn the recorder on and off.

I had a friend that had parents that taught computers at the university and they asked if they could use my programs in their class. I was flattered since the programs came out of the book. Soon came floppy disc drives and my programs were small compared to the big programs they used.

At that time, there was another computer but I never had a Commodore 64.

CD

Compact Disc came out and music was now digital. We no longer had to worry about our tapes getting eaten by tape players. We just had to make sure we didn't get finger prints on them or scratches. When a CD skipped it sounded like a broken record.

I got some CD's. I got Indigo Girls and New Bohemians. Sony came out with a player called Disc Man and now we could take it with us. We would set the player on the dash and plug the adapter into the tape player in the car stereo. If we hit a bump, the player would skip.

Also, what would we do with our boxes of cassettes? Don't toss them out. The answer is coming.

My Writing Hobbie

My father had a 286 Compaq. It would play games on floppy disc and it would show pictures. I found a pic scanner at the library and I scanned all my wallet photos.

I started writing a novel. The novel was about 100 pages and it was about a planet that was hit by an asteroid and they had to get rid f it somehow. I printed the book out on a daisy wheel printer. The printer had a wheel with all the letters like a typewriter. It would strike letters on a ink ribbon and print out my story.

The story would never see the light of day but I always liked writing. Later, I would get a Smith Corona word processor and write another novel about a man that was cursed and he came back from the dead to break his curse. I liked the idea of curse breaking so much I ended up writing a series of novels. I got one in print on demand. I used a pan name. I published it under Marc Stone. Kiss My Fate by Marc Stone 2005. I did a podcast where I would read three paragraphs into an MP3 and upload them to Itunes podcast. Also, I made some audiobooks and I uploaded them to public domain archives.

Another Computer

Another computer for my hobbies and this one had a CD drive. I got a CD burner for it and I took out the CD drive. There were jacks for audio. There was one for mic and speakers. Also, there was a jack for line in audio. I plugged in a Walk Man and I was able to record my cassettes to computer files. One of the tapes I had was the music I recorded at my fathers friends. They were recorded to WAV files then put on CD.

Another computer and this time I could record all my CD's to MP3. Now I could upload all my music to public domain archives. I had an 8 track recorder and I recorded some songs I wrote and made CD's. Soon, I had 5 albums.

Another computer and this time I m downloading all my MP3 music and putting them in an MP3 player. I am also writing little essays for a collection for the public domain archives.

MP3 Player

Welcome to today. I have this MP3 player I found on Ebay. It also plays FM radio. I was able do download a nice music library. I was streaming it over WIFI to my Iphone but my internet keeps dropping. While I was listening, it would cut off so I decided to just get an MP3 player. The MP3 player doesn't use internet.

I also found the Bible free MP3 downloads. It's here someplace in my little collection of things that go beep. I also found a watch that plays MP3. There's a jack for earphones in my watch. I play it when ever I am out and about and have to wait around for somebody to show up to get something from somebody on Craig's List.

Some of my MP3 players also play movies. There was a free video converter I used to convert moves so they can play on my MP3 players. I have cartoons like Pink Panther and Daffy Duck. My watch also plays movies. I would get them from Ebay. Some of the little things that go beep are from China and they come in seven languages.

Wrapping It Up

I enjoy writing and music. I decided to write an essay collection about music to my ears. I am glad there is still radio. I can listen to it on my MP3 player.

As long as there are words to type I will be writing a little. My career as a novel writer never took off, but there is still the public domain archives.

Thank you for reading.